



Does School Quality Influence the Housing Choices of Navy Personnel?

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The choice of where to live

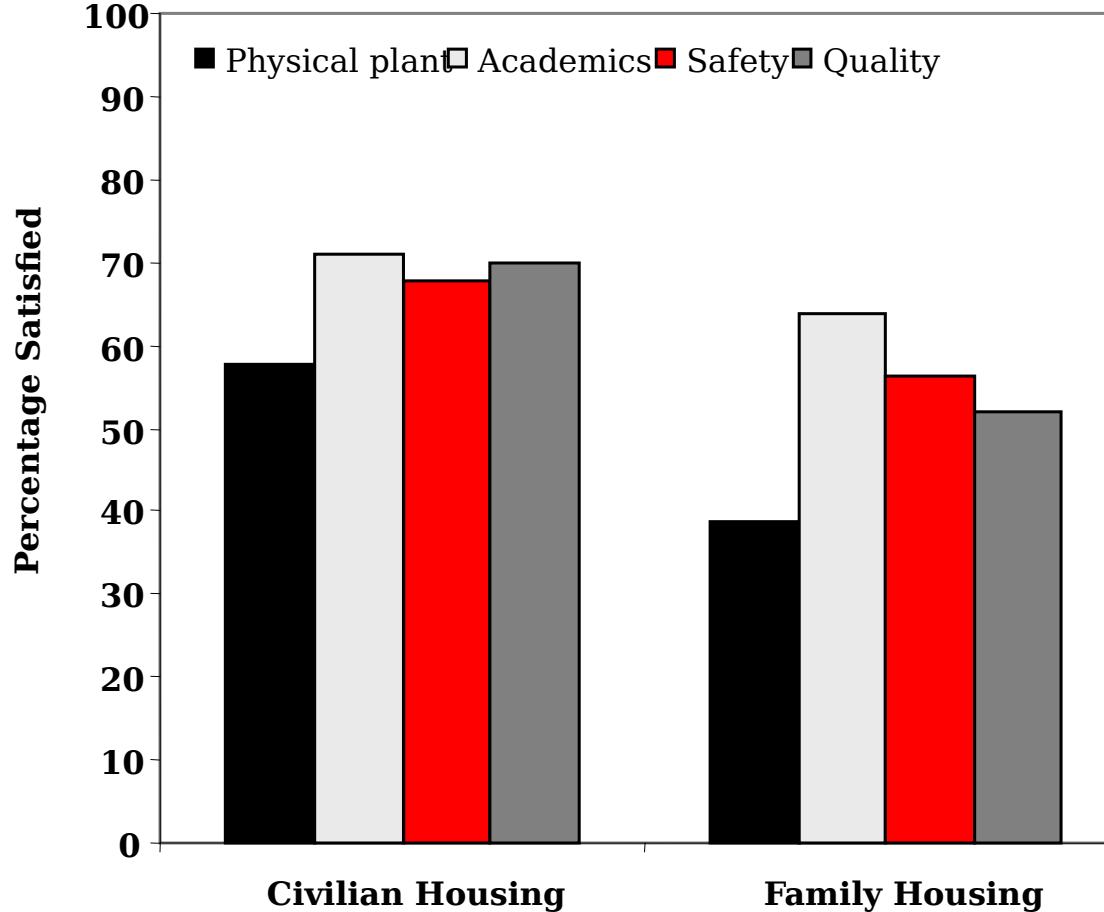
- School quality is very important to civilians
 - For example, test scores → housing prices
- Anecdotal evidence indicates school quality is *at least* as important to military families
 - Therefore, school quality influences housing decisions *and* quality of life
- Include 7 largest Navy bases:
 - Bangor/Bremerton, Everett/Whidbey, Jacksonville, Norfolk, Pearl Harbor, Pensacola, San Diego

Choosing family housing is choosing a specific school

• Those in the military:

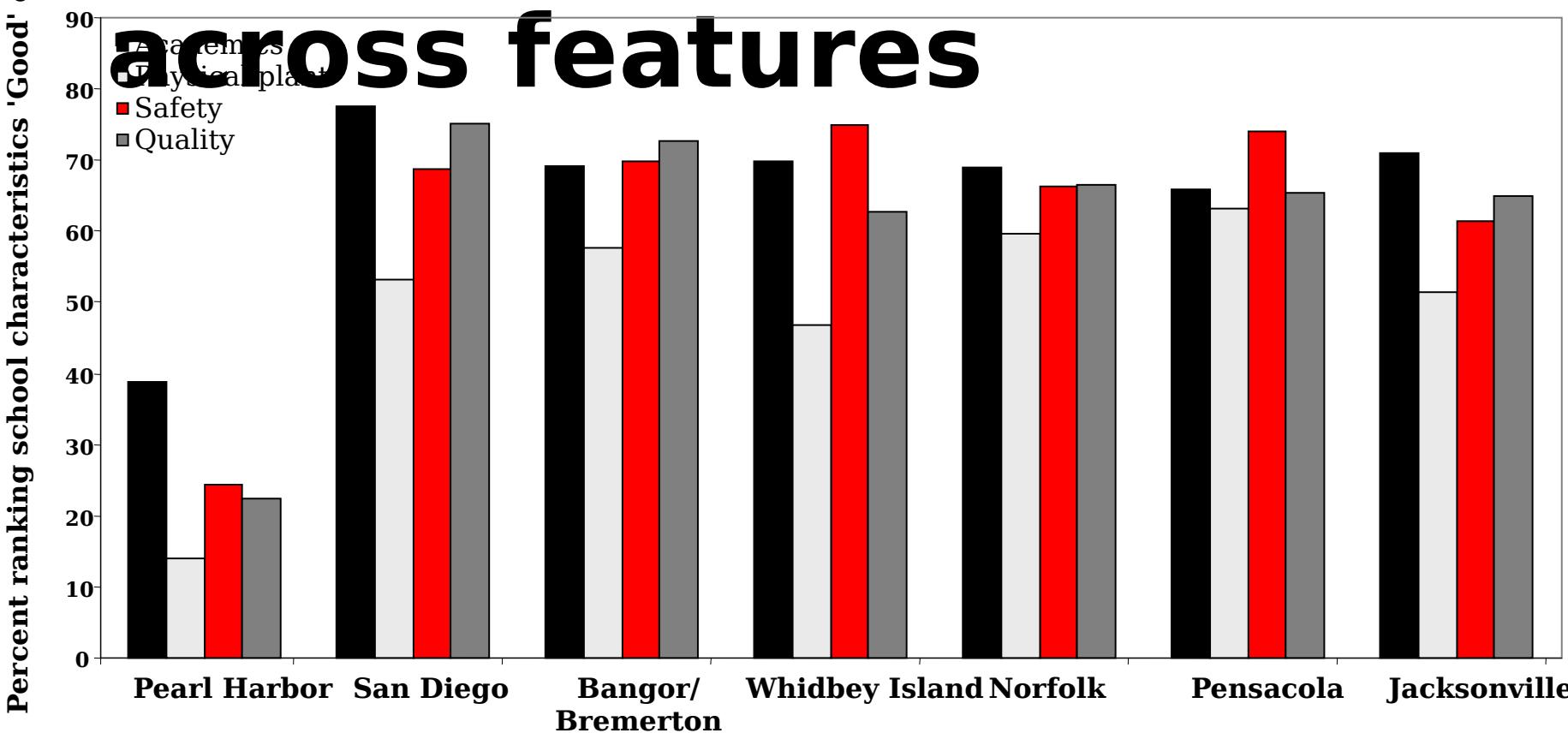
- Choosing family housing → sending their children to the public schools serving the family housing community
- Choosing civilian housing → choosing between several or many schools
- This suggests those in family housing will attend lower-quality schools

Parents in family housing are less satisfied with schools



Satisfaction varies across bases and across features

Percent ranking school characteristics 'Good' or 'Excellent'





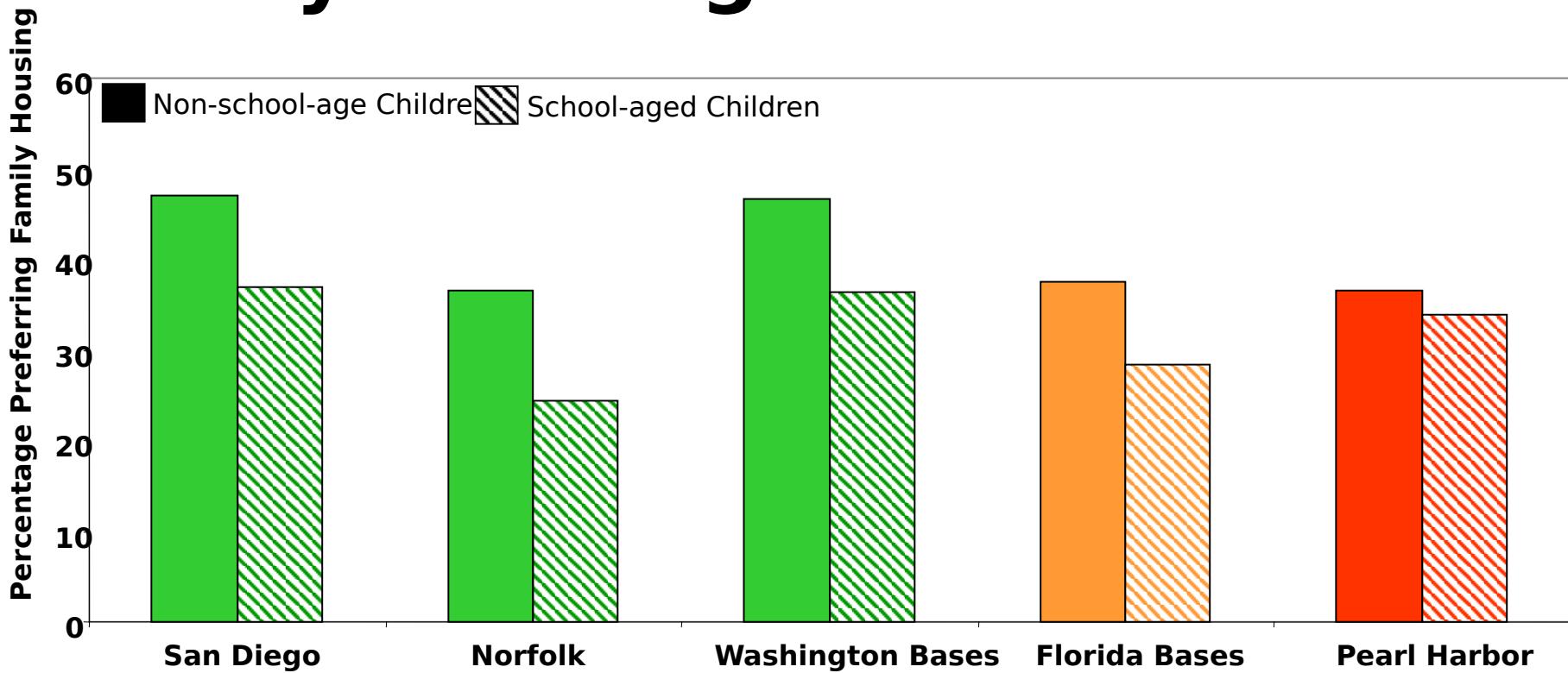
Some bases offer many choices, some do not

Base	Districts
San Diego	30
Whidbey/Everett	18
Norfolk	12
Bangor/Bremerton	9
Jacksonville	9
Pensacola	4
Pearl Harbor	1

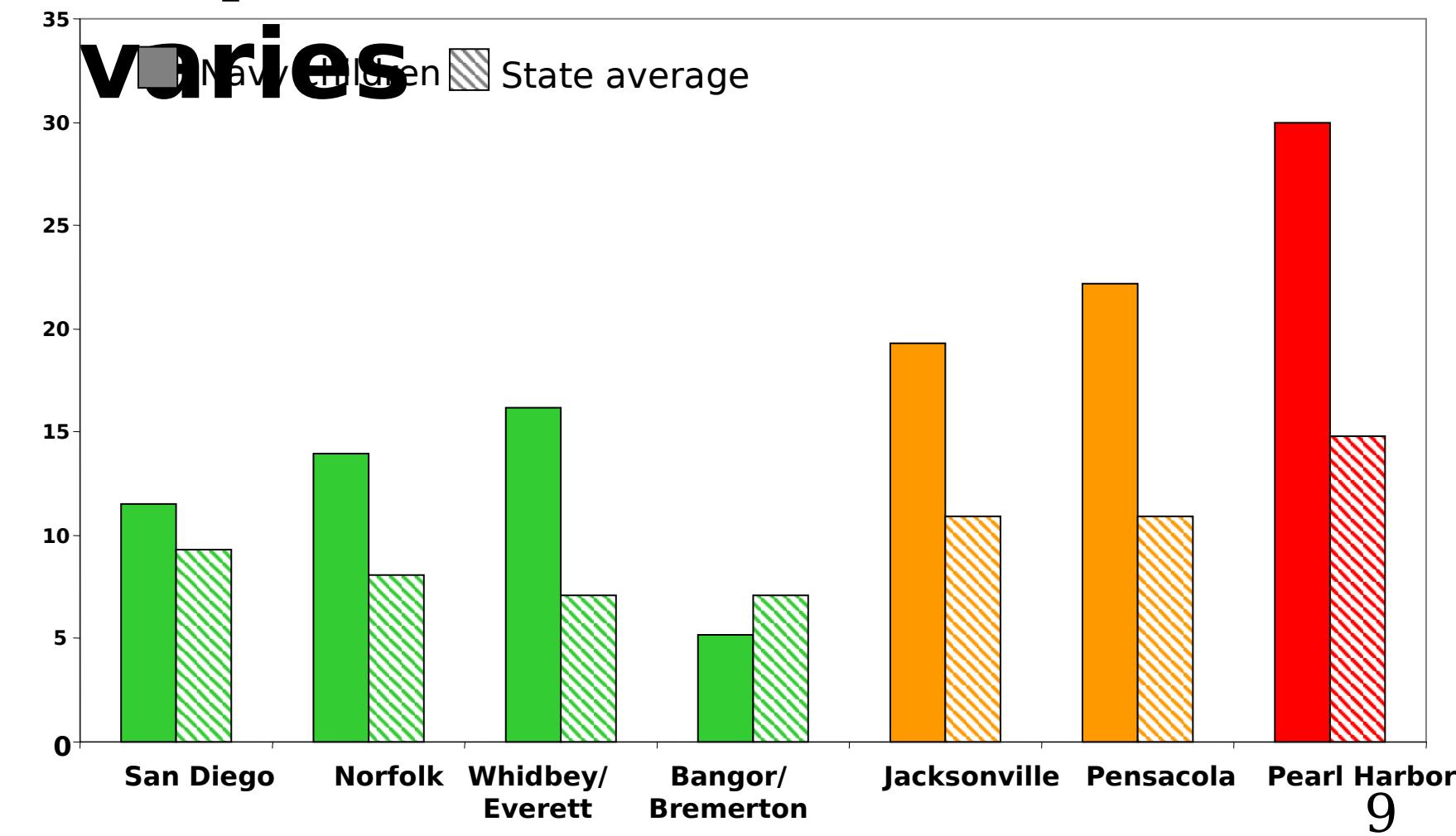
A few high quality schools may be enough

	Quality	
	High	Low
Many	San Diego Norfolk	Jacksonville Pensacola
Few	Whidbey/Everett Bangor/Bremerton	Pearl Harbor

Parents with School Age Children Less Likely to Prefer Family Housing



Percentage of students in private schools



What we see at bases with substantial choice:

- Correlation between school quality and overall satisfaction with the Navy (Norfolk)
- We find no retention effect at any base
 - Could be due to small samples and lack of variation at some bases

Implications

- School choice can influence housing preferences
 - If all options are poor, school quality less likely to influence decisions
- PPVs are unlikely to improve the quality of schools Navy children attend
 - In most cases, Navy contributes land they already own → PPVs will be located in same districts as current family housing

Questions?



Sample by base

